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Oregon Archives.

Letters, Reports, Messages,

Memorials, and other

Papers

Not Published

in the

Office of the Secretary of

State. &c.

Salem

1878

Letters and Reports published in the Oregon
Archives:

Page 255 - Resolution requiring report of Supt. Indian Affairs.

319 Answered by Gov. Abernethy also. repts. both dated
Feb. 10. 1849.

Papers

Relations to the War with the Cayuse Indians.

Page 321. Letter from James Douglas. Dec. 7 1847.

322 " addressed to Douglas & Son Commission "

323 " " & Citizen of Oregon.

325 " " " Commission & Key Percees Indu

" 326 - Ady. Genl's Report.

327 Univ. & Charter Masters Report, A.

328 " " " " B.

336 Adjutant Genl. Report.

302) Loan Commission's Report.

Letters published in Ervig's History.

Page 519. Letter from Wm W^m Beaman dated Nov. 20, 1847.

" 525 " " Jas Douglas " " Dec 3, 1881 " " " "

n. 530' " " " A. Hirsman " " " 4' " " "

543. Measurement & Compression

" 549 (Chap. 62) Letter from H. A. L.

55-2 P. S. Ogden letter

" 553 Letter from Geo Douglas. — Reply of Soc. A. H. M. M. P. 553.

555 - Doyle's reply to Gov. Abernethy.

564 Letter to Mr. Bear of Palms.

- Page 565 Letter from Douglass & Abernethy
" 566 " " M^{rs} Beam & Co.
" 568 " " Mayne & Incey. & letter
" 577 Series of Origⁿ. formal supplies
" 584 Letter from A. F. Rogers;
" 191 Petition of 1840,
" 292 " " Citizens 1845,
" 409 Address of J. M^{rs} Langhlin met for Douglass,
" 410 Letter of John M^{rs} Langhlin but dated March 11th instead
of March 18th
" 411 Ex. Com. reply, dated March 22nd instead 21st,
March 12th 1845 - Dr M^{rs} Langhlin wrote that
Williamson had given up his claim so
that there was no cause for complaint.

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Miscellaneous.

Letter from A. Beers in regard to the death of
Gen. Le Breton.

Organization of the first Company of Oregon
Rangers.

Commission of Capt. T. D. Keyser.

Letter from " " " "

Mississauga, March 16, 1844

Mr. O. Russell,

Sir:—It is with painful feelings that I take
my pen to write you in reference to the melancholy
transaction of the 4th of March. I regret very much
that Mr. Langhlin took the steps as reported (and
I believe I am officially informed), says he did in
his ex parte ~~case~~ decision made at the Falls.

As such report has sounded out from such
authority implicating our citizens as murderers
of the Indians killed &c. I feel called upon to act
in my official capacity and in concert with my
colleagues in the Executive Department, to see that
the laws are executed, honored and respected.

As some of our citizens are charged with mur-
dering an Indian in the broad light of the sun,
and in the streets of our metropolis, I cannot
let it pass over without our investigation; for
this good reason: If we allow such atrocious con-
duct to pass, we ought to be branded with infamy.
But if our citizens were doing their duty in
trying to arrest an assassin and a villain,
our citizens should be cleared of from such a
foul slander, and justice to the friends of Mr.
LeBreton demands at our hands that we pro-

test his memory and justify his conduct in that to him, another occasion; and that we consider he fell a patriot for the cause of the Colony. The idea should be hooted out of countenance, that we allow Indians murdered and pay for it with blankets.

The Indians must be taught this lesson: That we will not allow them to kill our citizens, and then pay for it, and that we will not allow white men to kill them without cause by paying for it.

You will therefore take the steps the law prescribes and arrest those persons concerned in the affray with the Indian killed, and bring them to trial before you as Judge, to answer to the charge made against them for the murder of the Indian.

You will please cite B. Whit to appear before you in order that he may vindicate his doings in the premises. If his reasons were good, and the case demanded his attention, who will say he had no right to take such measures as were taken in the premises.

I hope you will go straight ahead and I will sustain you with 30 mounted riflemen if need be, as Crocket says "first know you are right and then go ahead."

Please write me the first opportunity

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and let me know how business progresses. I
would say to you and you will please inform
Esquiv's Hill, that a Secretary must be appointed.
And I would nominate Mr. H. Wilson, or if
you and Mr. Hill will file it by some other
person, you have my consent.

Hereof for not, and returns make as the
law directs.

A. Beers } Executive Com-
mittee.

Articles of Organization for the Oregon Rangers

Preamble.

Self defence, the protection of property and life being one of the first laws of nature, and enforced by all laws, both human and Divine, The undersigned deem it important and indispensably necessary to enter into a compact for our mutual protection against all dangers to which we are, and may be exposed, while residents of Oregon, To be governed by the following articles of Compact and agreement, to wit:

Article 1st. This body shall be called the Oregon Rangers and shall have power to enlist a number of men to act in defence of the lives and property of the citizens, as shall from time to time be deemed requisite, and also to call the same into active service in time of danger, invasion or Indian depredation, by order of any Commissioned officer of this body, or of any one or more of the Executive or Legislative Committees, of the Territory in all cases of danger to the lives or property of any of the citizens, by public proclamation or otherwise.

Article 2^d. As soon as twelve men shall be

enlisted, they shall be entitled to elect a Captain, Lieutenant, and Ensign, with such other officers as the Company may deem requisite.

Article 3rd The Company when organized shall meet at the place designated by the Captain, or in his absence the next in command, as often as shall be deemed necessary by the Legislative or Executive Committee of the government, and also meet at the command of the commissioned officers if deemed proper once a month, for inspection and military service.

Article 4th Each man shall be equipped with a good rifle and accoutrements, and mounted upon a good horse, with the necessary appurtenances for traveling; and shall be entitled to receive for each day meeting for Company duty \$1. per day, and for each day in actual service in case of invasion or pursuit of Indians, \$2. per day, and shall forfeit twice the amount per day to the Company for non-attendance. All such forfeitures may be collected by civil suit, attachment and sale of property as by law provided.

Article 5th The officers of this Company shall receive a charter from the Colonial Government, which shall allow them to increase the number of Companies to any

number that may be deemed necessary for the protection of the lives and property of all the citizens of Oregon.

Signed

Thomas O. Keizer,	J. L. Morrison,
R. James Casen,	Charles P. Watt,
Isaac C. Hutchins,	Webbey Hampshurst,
Richard H. Ekin,	John Anderson,
Peter Brainerd,	Joel Trumburn,
Nathan Sitton,	J. M. Garrison,
William Delaney,	Joseph Holman,
Ja ^s . R. Patterson,	John Ford,
John Edwards,	Chas. E. Pickett,
Nirco Ford,	John B. Keizer,
W ^m . Martin,	Daniel Waldo,
Ja ^s . Martin,	Lyndsey Appligato,
W ^m . Henry,	Gray.

I hereby certify that the persons named and enlisted agreeable to the Articles herewith transmitted, (and) are armed and equipped and ready for action.

Given under my hand this 16th
day of March, A.D. 1844.

Thomas O. Keizer.

Commandant of the Oregon Rangers.

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Captain's Keizer's Commission.

To the People of the Territory of Oregon.
To all to whom these presents shall come:

Know Ye, That pursuant to the Constitution and laws of our said Territory. We have appointed and constituted, and by these presents do appoint and constitute T. B. Keizer, Captain of the first Volunteer Company of Rangers of said Territory; with rank from April 3^d 1844, to hold the said office in the manner specified in and by our said Constitution and laws.

In testimony whereof, we have caused our seal for Military Commissions to be hereunto affixed.

Witness

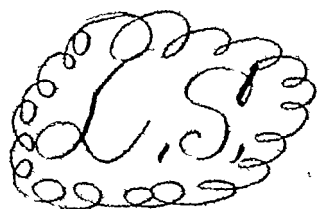
D. Hill,
J. Gale,
A. Beers, } Executive Comm-
 } mittee.

of said Territory and Commanders-in-Chief of all the Militia and Volunteer companies of said Territory.

Dated at the Willamette Falls, the 3^d of April, in the year of our Lord, one thousand, eight hundred and forty-four.

Attest C. Johnson

Secretary.



Oregon Territory,
Chambers District,

April 29, 1844.

To his Excellency

A. Beuss:— Dear Sir, In accordance to your proclamation, March 4th, the undersigned succeeded in enlisting 26 mounted men, and this, our third company of drils, and in behalf of the company, we take the liberty of asking the following questions: Was there any cause for raising these troops? And is there any need of these troops? Knowing their charters, limits, and their discretionary powers; recollect we are to be called out at the instance of any one of the commissioned officers; or at the instance of the Executive or Legislative Committee, where is our chartered liberties of drawing on your military stores and deposits for munitions and provisions? Or where is our liberty of making out pay rolls and drawing on the treasury? If we have the chartered liberties that brave men expect, signed by the proper officers, with the seal of the Territory, - while we keep in the bounds of that Charter, we have to assume no responsibilities. And if we have to assume responsibilities on our own expenses, we have too much soldier's pride to be made mere mercenary soldiers. Giving the words

of the great Col. Crockett, "those that fight on their own expense and their own responsibilities have enough to do to fight their own battles," commissions not excepted.

(Signed) Thomas D. Keyser,
J. L. Morrison,
Peter Brannard.

(There is evident insubordination here, but the records does not state what was the action in the premises by the Executive Committee. The Company was raised by proclamation of Alanson Beers, one of the Ex. Com. at the time of the death of Gen. Le Breton, and the excitement was allayed by Dr. John McLoughlin, and the citizens who composed the company could not spare the time to drill for times or months, without some compensation, and there was no funds in the Provisional Government treasury at that time. This information I obtained from a member of the company, who so stated to me about a year since.

J. Henry Brown

Messages Not Published in

Oregon Archives.

N^o 1. Mess. of — Executive Committee June 1845—
 " 3. " " Gov. Abernethy Dec. 1845

Message of Executive Committee

Dated June 18, 1844, referred to on page 39, Oregon Archives.

Message.

To the Honorable, the Legislative Assembly of Oregon Territory.
Gentlemen:

As a rising Colony, under now inmediate external control or civil protection, we have abundant reason for rendering up our thanks to the Great Ruler of the Universe for His parental care and protection over us, from the first entrance into this country, unto the present day. And it becomes us humbly to acknowledge our dependance on Him, as our protector and preserver, and implore a continuance of his care and watchfulness over us, and wisdom to direct us in the discharge of the duties devolving upon us.

This country has been populated by powerful Indian tribes, but it was pleased the Great Disposer of human events to re-

Since then to ~~be~~ more shadows of their former greatness, Thus removing the chief obstacles to the entrance of civilization, and opening a way for the introduction of Christian ^{religion} where ignorance and idolatry have reigned uncontrolled for many ages.

There has been perhaps few colonies planted in North America, under the same circumstances in which the present settlers of this Territory are placed. We are situated in a portion of country remote from civilized nations, among the few remaining savages who are the original proprietors of the soil. The country is claimed by two powerful, civilized and enlightened nations, proud of their constitutional liberties, and jealous of their respective rights and privileges.

It is obvious that these claims must be adjusted and the soil purchased from the original proprietors, previous to any right being conferred upon the citizens of these governments, relative to the cultivation of lands in this Territory.

The government of Great Britain has never publicly extended her claims so

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far south as to include the lands now under cultivation in this Colony. But a treaty now exists between that government and the United States, giving to either party the right of mutual occupancy of this Territory in relation to the Indian trade. The United States have held out inducements to their citizens and indirectly encouraged the settlement of this country by them. Consequently, we are now improving the country by their consent, but without their protection. And it is self-evident that every community have a right to make laws for their mutual benefit and protection where no law exists.

It was under these impressions that the settlers in this Territory established a form of government last year, and adopted such rules and regulations as were at that time deemed necessary for the protection and prosperity of the Colony.

These regulations were so constructed as to be altered or amended by a Legislative Assembly, whose members were to be chosen by the people annually; until such time as the government of the United States shall extend their jurisdiction over the Territory.

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At the time of our organization, it was expected that the United States would have taken possession of the Country before this time but a year has rolled around, and there appears little or no prospect of aid from that quarter, consequently we are yet left on our own resources for protection.

X In view of the present state of affairs, gentlemen of the Assembly, we would recommend to your consideration the adoption of some measure for a more thorough organization.

Also to take into consideration the propriety of laying a light tax for the support of government.

We would also recommend to your consideration the propriety of vesting the executive power in one person.

And the impropriety of vesting the power of Supreme, Probate and District Judges in one person, the necessity of having an individual judge for each Court.

We would recommend that such of the laws of Iowa, as ~~to~~ have been or may be adopted, be so amended, as to suit the circumstances of the country.

That the Militia Law be so amended that military officers hold their commissions during good behavior, and that each company shall have the privilege of electing their own officers at such time and place as they shall think fit, excepting the days of annual reviews. And that such portions of the Militia Law of Iowa, be adopted as will suit all the circumstances of our Military organization.

We would recommend that the first article of the Land Law be amended, so as to require that some permanent improvement be made on claims before recording. And that such improvements be designated on record, with such other regulations relative to land claims as in the opinion of this assembly will be most beneficial to the interests of the public.

We would recommend that the fourth Article of the Land Law, be repealed, as it is considered detrimental to the interests of the community.

We would recommend that Commissioners be appointed to locate roads.

in such places as this Assembly shall deem necessary for the interest of the public, and that a law be enacted for the purpose of establishing ferries at different thoroughfares crossing the Willamette river.

We recommend the encouragement of the means of education as far as our limited circumstances will allow.

We would also recommend that the laws of Iowa be taken into mature consideration concerning blacks and mountains, and that a law be enacted for the punishment of offenders inciting the Indians against the whites. And regulating the intercourse of the whites among the Indians in this colony.

And that provisions be made for the erection of a jail. And such other measures as shall be best calculated to secure the peace and happiness of the people.

And in conclusion we desire to impress upon your minds, the important fact, that although this colony is small, and its resources feeble, yet the life, rights and